

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3855

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 6598

STADIS////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IR

SUBJECT: SMALL SCALE NAVAL EXERCISES BETWEEN MIDEASTFOR AND IIN

REF: STATE 183032

1. WE SHARE DEPARTMENT'S RESERVATIONS (REFTEL) RE PERMITTING MIDEASTFOR AND CINCEUR TO INITIATE BROADER RANGE OF AMERICAN/IRANIAN NAVAL EXERCISES WITHOUT PRIOR EMBASSY CONCURRENCE. WHATEVER THE BENEFITS WHICH MIGHT ACCRUE FROM INCREASED EXERCISES BETWEEN MIDEASTFOR AND IIN, WE URGE THAT NO RPT NO RELAXATION OF CURRENT PROCEDURES FOR AUTHORIZING SUCH EXERCISES BE AGREED TO.

2. PERSIAN GULF, GULF OF OMAN AND ARABIAN SEA ARE ALREADY HIGHLY SENSITIVE POLITICAL AREAS WHICH ARE NOT LIKELY TO GROW LESS SO AS WORLD ENERGY NEEDS GROWN AND IRANIAN MILITARY BUILDUP CONTINUES. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE SHALL NEED TO SCRUTINIZE WITH INCREASING CARE JOINT NAVAL EXERCISES THAT MIGHT CREATE IN THE AREA AS A WHOLE MISUNDERSTANDINGS RE U.S. MOTIVES AND INTENTIONS.

HELMS

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